

Bendable Maine

Hub Library Guide 2022



The Maine State Library is working with the Drucker Institute to bring Bendable, a lifelong learning system, to the residents of Maine. But Bendable isn't being built *for* the community; it's being built *with* the community.



Essential to this community engagement is the involvement of the institution that many Mainers love and trust more than any other: their local public library.

For Bendable to fulfill its promise—cultivating in Mainers the habit of lifelong learning so as to make them more resilient in the face of a fast-changing economy and improve their overall sense of well-being—we need the state's 256 local public libraries to help lead the system's development, content curation and promotion.

This begins with the 13 Bendable Hub Libraries.

Roles & Responsibilities

1 Touch base regularly with the Bendable Fellow in your area to relay ideas, questions and concerns.

Our four Bendable Fellows, located around the state, are here to help you!

They're always available to you; reach out anytime you have a question to ask or something to share.

At the same time, you don't need to worry about keeping in touch. Part of the Fellows' job is to make sure that they're in regular touch with you, supporting all of your efforts to integrate Bendable into your library and into your community, as well as troubleshooting any challenges that may arise.

Where to find a fellow

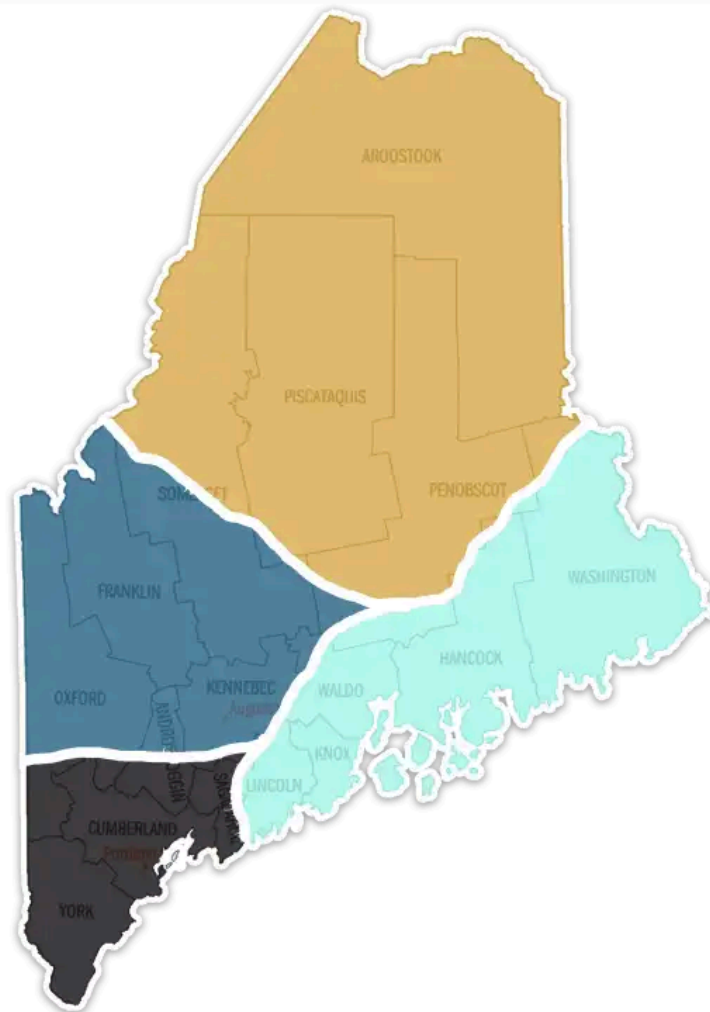
Our Fellows are here to ensure that Bendable is being shaped by Mainers for Mainers. They are working with a wide range of organizational stakeholders and individual residents to co-design Bendable Maine, help curate learning content to meet local interests and needs, promote the system and integrate it into the lives of Mainers everywhere. Feel free to reach out to help bring Bendable to your area.

 **Christina Kane-Gibson**
christina@maine.bendable.com

 **Kate Hunter**
kate@maine.bendable.com

 **Paul Salway**
paul@maine.bendable.com

 **Landis Hackett**
landis@maine.bendable.com



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Help organize quarterly stakeholder meetings that include local libraries in your area and other stakeholders.

Our Bendable Fellows will take the lead on this—but we need your help to make sure that the local libraries in your region, as well as other key stakeholders, turn out in force for our quarterly stakeholder meetings.

These meetings are one of the primary forums that we use to engage the community in all aspects of Bendable: its design and development (through early 2022), content curation (through the spring), promotion (before and after launch in summer 2022) and, ultimately, the integration of Bendable into the community.

Bendable Maine Planning & Development

Summer & Fall 2021 → Winter & Spring 2022 → Spring & Summer 2022 → → →

Co-design

Content
curation

Promotion

3

Assemble Community Collections— learning playlists from individual residents in your area.

This may sound a bit daunting—but don't worry! We will train you in how to put together a Community Collection from beginning to end.

Essentially, the process boils down to finding someone in your region with either personal or professional expertise on a particular topic. Working with them, you will produce a Community Collection—their suggested list of learning resources (classes, TED Talks, podcasts, books, etc.) to inform others on that subject. The Bendable team will then handle the final editing and quality control.

If each Hub Library can produce three or four Community Collections before launch, we'll be rocking!

For a sampling of Community Collections put together by the St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend, Indiana, with the full support of the Bendable team, just [click here](#).



Collection by
Sarah Richards

How to start your houseplant collection

I thought my friend's plants were wonderful, and so I started to grow my own.

 7 Resources



Collection by
Laquisha Jackson

How to start a small business in the food industry

After 19 years in the hospitality industry, I wanted to switch lanes and start my own venture in the food industry. Actually, I wound up starting two—one for-profit and one nonprofit. I hope these resources can help guide you in taking the first steps to start your own food-related enterprise.

 8 Resources



Collection by
Chuck Fry

How to start making films on a budget

I spent some time in California, but then I came back to South Bend to make films—and you can learn to make them, too.

 9 Resources



Collection by
Fenil Patel

How to build your own gaming PC

After falling in love with personal computers, I built my first one in 2013. Now, working on PCs is my career. With this resource list, you can learn to build your own PC.

 8 Resources

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Using materials provided by the Maine State Library and Bendable team, actively promote the system.

We'll give you the tools: posters and postcards, bookmarks and T-shirts, social media assets, and webinars on how to market Bendable Maine and integrate lifelong learning into your community.

But we need your help in promoting the system through any and all channels at your disposal.



What do you want to learn?



Bendable Maine

Coming summer 2022



What do you want to learn?



Bendable Maine

Coming summer 2022



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Fulfill your role in the Bendable Maine system as a local library—and encourage others to do the same.

The 256 local libraries spread across the state are being called upon to help bring Bendable Maine to life in their communities.

Along with our Fellows, we need you as a Hub Library to check in with them when you can and encourage them to do their part to keep Bendable Maine humming. We know, of course, that not all of the libraries in your region will have the interest or capacity to get involved. That's OK. We simply ask you to collaborate with, and be a resource for, those libraries in your area that are excited to lean into Bendable Maine.

Meantime, we ask you to lead by example in fulfilling your own role as a local library.

The role of local libraries in Bendable Maine

- Promote Bendable on your library website and social media. (We know this won't be applicable in all cases.)
- Input local learning events (from the community college in your area, local code school, YMCA, adult learning program, etc.) into the Bendable admin suite. We will train libraries how to do this. For those with limited capacity, our Fellows can help organize local library volunteers to keep content fresh and up to date.
- Host Bendable-related events (talks by Community Collection authors, “one city, one course” activities, etc.).
- Identify Community Collection candidates. While local libraries won't assemble Collections, the Hubs need their help in finding suitable subject-matter experts in different parts of each region.
- Pass along [“Live & Learn” stories](#), which show how Bendable is being integrated into the community. The Bendable team will write these. But we need help finding them.
- Alert the Bendable team to any stakeholders—local businesses, schools, nonprofits and government agencies—that want to get involved.

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Once you're feeling comfortable with Bendable, get creative and have fun with it!

Nobody knows your community better than you do. If you come up with ideas on how Bendable can help enhance initiatives or partnerships you've already got going, or you think of a great way of integrating Bendable into your library programming or community events, tell us!

Or better yet, try it out and let us know how a Fellow can help and what you're learning from the experience. We're always gathering best practices and looking for good stories to share.



Bendable Maine



POWER HOUR | DATE TIME

Creative Writing with Mark Macey
Playwright & Director | Artistic Director of Stage East



Bendable Maine resources

Your best resource is the Bendable Fellow in your area.
But you may also find the following to be helpful:

- Lex Dennis is the Drucker Institute's director of lifelong learning. You can reach him at lex@drucker.institute or 609-929-9751.
- The [Bendable Maine website](#) is constantly updated with news and information.
- The [original news release](#) on Bendable Maine from the Drucker Institute and Maine State Library provides some good framing.
- Our list of [frequently asked questions](#) covers many of the issues that were brought up during our Bendable Maine design workshops in the summer and fall of 2021.
- Bendable Maine will be different in many ways from [Bendable South Bend](#). Still, the platform there will give you a good feel for many features that will be included here. You can get full guest access by using the ZIP code 99999 when signing up.